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REMARKS

Claims 1-17 are pending in the application.

Claims 5-10 and 13-17 are allowed and claims 1, 3 and 11 are rejected and claims 2, 4 and 12 are objected to.

Claims 2, 4 and 12 have been amended herein to independent form.

Claims 1-10 are objected to by requesting that the word "for" be inserted into the claim language. Claims 1-10 have been amended to be consistent in obviating the objection.

Claims 1, 3 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by Shimizu (U.S. 5,293,378).

The Office Action argues the new reference anticipates claims 1, 3 and 11 by saying as, "it is ambiguous how packets are passed on to switches from a distribution unit" (lines starting from the 3rd line of paragraph 3 on page 2 read as, "In particular note the structure of the claim is not clearly recited and also specifically that the output of the distribution unit is fed into the switch unit (i.e., that packets are output from the distribution unit").

Claims 1 and 11 have been amended to clarify applicant's claimed invention. The amended claims clarify the feature that the packet switch receives input packets which are scheduled and the scheduled packets are distributed in an order as received, independent of destination and switched without buffers for avoiding packet confliction to the same destination, and output in an arrival order, including switching of input packets is performed by distributing packets received at input ports in the arrival order of the packets, irrespective of destinations, to paths sequentially, switching the packets to the destinations of the packets, and multiplexing packets for outputting multiplexed packets to output ports.

In applicant's last response it was argued that:

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The subject PKT SW receives already scheduled packets as an input and sequentially distributes received packets in the arrival order of the packets irrespective of destinations.

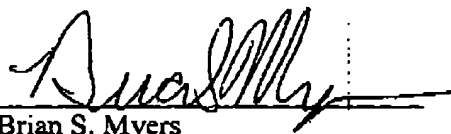
This feature can be implemented by a technology for "accomplishing a switch in a manner in which distribution means constituted from one or more distribution units distributes PKTs received at input ports in the arrival order of the PKTs, irrespective to destinations, to paths sequentially, switching means constituted from one or more switch units distributes packets to the destinations of the packets, and multiplexing means constituted from one or more multiplexing units multiplexes packets for outputting multiplexed packets from output ports."

It is respectfully submitted Shimizu fails to teach the features of claims 1 and 11 and claim 3 is allowable for at least it's dependency upon claim 1.

In view of the remarks set forth above, this application is in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested. However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider this application not to be in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

Any fee due with this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,



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